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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
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3/2. Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that a healthy environment is a fundamental condition for the well-being of all life forms and that it greatly depends on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the ecosystem goods and services it underpins,

Concerned about the negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human health worldwide, caused by pollution of air, land and soil, inland water and oceans,

Bearing in mind that some activities conducted by the service and productive sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, extractive industries such as oil, gas, mining and energy, as well as the manufacturing and processing industries, result in pollution of air, land and soil, inland water and oceans,

Recognizing that mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes implies that biodiversity is a vital part of the functioning of the service and productive sectors and that these should seek to reduce, avoid and mitigate their negative impacts, including pollution, while also generating positive effects for biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to sustainable development and the provision of essential services for human health and well-being,

Recognizing also that mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into different sectors and fostering cross-sectoral initiatives provides an opportunity to achieve the goals and objectives of different multilateral environmental agreements and international commitments, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling its resolution 2/16 on the mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being,

Welcoming the adoption of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being at the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2016,

Welcoming also decision XIII/3 on strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors and all the other decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting,

Welcoming further decision XIII/33 on the date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in which the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided that the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol would be held in Egypt in the last quarter of 2018 and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Peru for its offer to host intersessional open-ended meetings prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

1. *Invites* member States, taking into account their differing national circumstances:

(a) To strengthen their efforts to mainstream conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity within and across sectors, such as agriculture; fisheries and aquaculture; tourism; extractive industries such as oil, gas, mining and energy; infrastructure; and the manufacturing and processing industries; in order to promote the reduction, mitigation, and remediation of the negative impacts, including pollution, related to those sectors, on biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services;

(b) To work on establishing, strengthening or fostering institutional, legislative and regulatory frameworks, and incorporating an inclusive economic, social and environmentally sustainable approach involving relevant stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, civil society, the private sector and national and subnational governments, as appropriate;

(c) To support sustainable production and consumption through value chains, the application of clean technologies, the elimination, phasing out or reform of incentives harmful to biodiversity, and the strengthening and promotion of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent with international obligations;

(d) To promote the creation of standards and good practice guidelines related to biodiversity in service and productive sectors taking into account ecosystem-based approaches and the implications of cumulative environmental effects on biodiversity;

(e) To encourage the adaptation of practices for sustainable infrastructure, the conservation of landscapes and ecosystems, the sustainable use of land and marine spatial planning and the introduction or promotion of measures to raise awareness of the multiple values of biodiversity that contribute to preventing pollution;

(f) To encourage investments in biodiversity as a means of enhancing the functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote close coordination, collaboration and synergies related to mainstreaming biodiversity among the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral environmental agreements and, as appropriate, other organizations and international initiatives and processes;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate and within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, on the implementation of and follow-up to the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting, especially on aspects related to pollution mitigation through mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors;

4. *Invites* member States to consider including biodiversity as one of the issues to be considered by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a note on upcoming milestones on biodiversity and present it to member States for their consideration no later than the 141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme and the first meeting of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly in 2018.